

ZERO BEAT

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Springfield, Mass.

ARRL Affiliated, 31st Year

JUNE, 1980

THE HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASS'N. INC. SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL BANQUET, FRIDAY JUNE 5th

WESTOVER OPEN MESS

WESTOVER A.F.B.

Cash Bar 6:30

Dinner 7:30

Field Day 1980 Slide Show !

Ham Orchestra Making Sweet Music!

15 Second Talk by WBLETS!

"Ham of the Year" Award to be Presented!

Club Raffle Prizes to be Awarded!

Come and enjoy a sitdown dinner of Round Roast of Beef, tossed Salad, Potato, butter and rolls, and dessert for only \$8.50 each.

Contact Jack Dumont, K1ZQB for tickets now so you won't be disappointed! (or Ron, WBLETS at 593-9852)



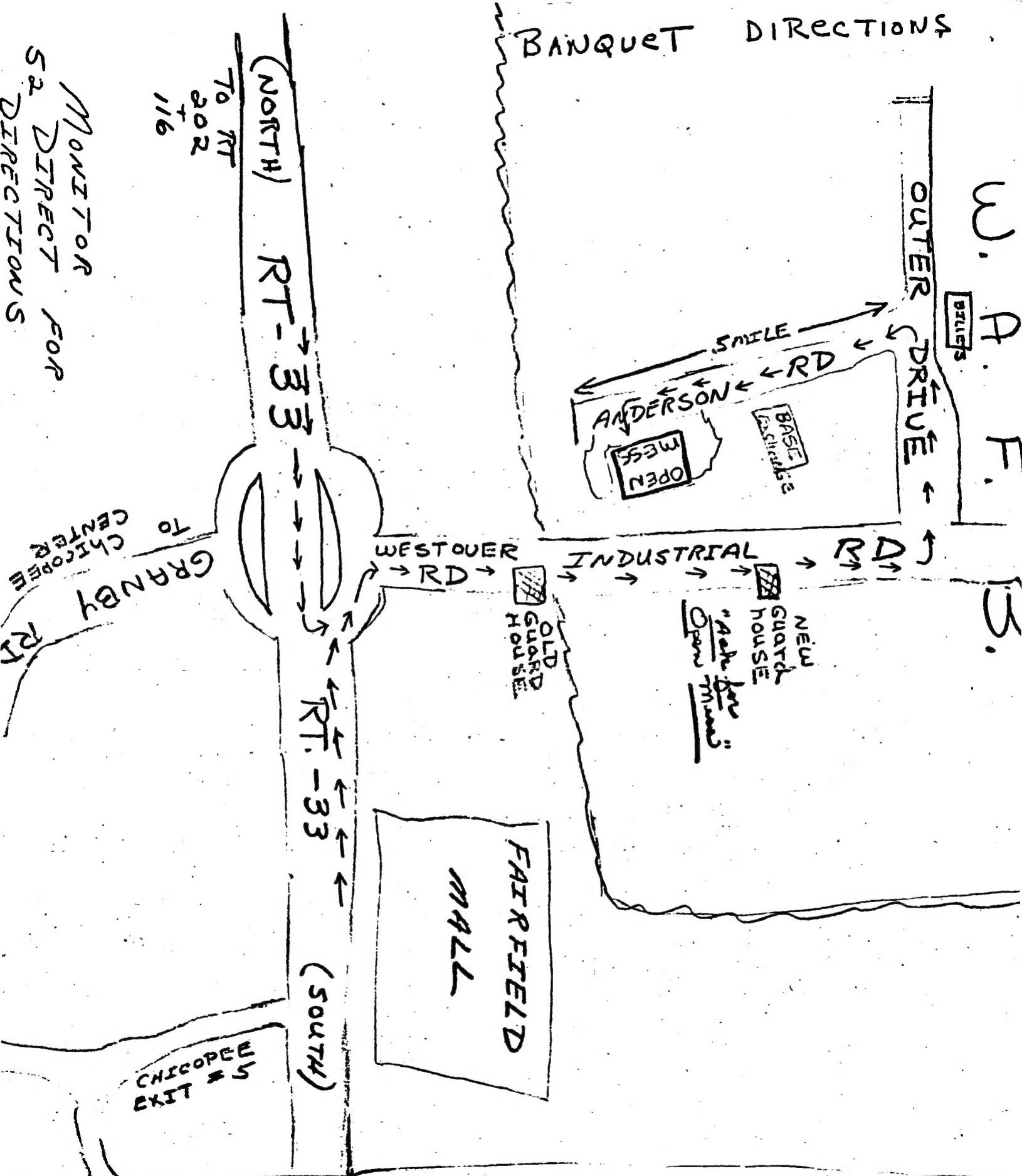
DIRECTIONS ON PAGE 2 *****

LAST CHANCE*LAST CHANCE*LAST CHANCE*LAST CHANCE*LAST CHANCE*LAST Chanc-

DONT BE CAUGHT SHORT OF A CHANCE ON THE ICOM IC2AT

DRAWING DATE JUNE 5, 1981 AT THE BANQUET

HELP SUPPORT YOUR CLUB AND WIN A NEAT RIG



(WEST) MASS

TO WEST SPRINGFIELD
RT 35 + 91 EXIT #4

PIKE

RT - 90

(EAST)

ZERO BEAT PAGE 2

TO Springfield
EXIT 6
RT 291

THE ANCESTRY OF THE HAMDEN COUNTY RADIO CLUB

By: Tom Barrett W1KUE

Author's Note: The following is not meant to be a history in the documented sense. I have no documentation, memory is my only reference. On that basis, here is some background to lay a foundation upon which a history may rise.

The club's antecedents lie in the 1930s. Before World War II this area was the locale of three radio clubs. In alphabetical order they were: The Connecticut Valley Radio Club (CVRC), The Springfield Radio Association (SRA), and The Western Massachusetts Radio Club (WMRC). Each organization revolved about a pivotal character, and the rivalry, clash of personalities, and at times, temper flare-ups were a sight to behold. The three colorful characters involved were: Archie MacLean, W1JQ, of the CVRC; Ike Creaser, W1UD of the SRA; and Lou Richmond, W1AVK, of the WMRC.

These clubs had their periods of wax and wane; first one then another would grow, dominate the scene, and be replaced, only to rise again as circumstances allowed. As I have indicated, personalities played a part in this process, and hams switched from club to club as the spirit moved them. In those days the ham population of this area was about a hundred and fifty and perhaps sixty or seventy of them belonged to one or another of the local clubs. In addition to the advantages and disadvantages of having a "strong man" in each club they shared another common disadvantage. Their meetings were bogged down with the nitty-gritty of club business, and it sometimes seemed that the less important the subject the longer and more acrimonious the discussion. The result was more hot air than program at club meetings. Decisions were based more on who supported what viewpoint than on the facts of the matter under consideration. Each club maintained permanent quarters. The CVRC rented space downtown, the SRA met in a building at W1UD's QTH off upper State Street, and the WMRC had the use of facilities at Springfield Airport on Liberty Street. All three had station equipment, sometimes operable - sometimes not. Given the above situation, and method of handling club business, it should come as no surprise that the clubs were unable to support, on a continuing basis, more than a core group of a few members, and were beset by financial problems.

At this point I believe it necessary to insert a personal note or two to assist in maintaining perspective. I knew W1JQ, W1UD, and W1AVK personally, and valued them all as personal friends. I was closest, however, to W1JQ. I joined the CVRC in 1932, and in time became its Treasurer. I attended meetings of the other clubs when time permitted, and base my observations concerning their operations on that, and on discussion with friends who were members of SRA and WMRC. If my recounting of "the old days" is subjective, so be it.

The circumstances set forth above remained substantially constant from the early 1930s until December 7, 1941. Pearl Harbor shut down ham radio for the duration, and most hams went either into the military or war work. Between 1942 and 1946 the War Emergency Radio Service (WERS) on 112 Megacycles provided some quasi-ham operation for those available, but this period had little effect on our story. All three clubs died and were never to arise again.

By mid 1946 most of those hams who were coming home had arrived. The pre-war group was augmented by a large number of service trained operators with an interest in ham radio. The VHF bands were realigned; five meters became six meters, two

and a half meters became two meters; the higher frequency bands also were revamped. Two meters was the lowest frequency band on which simple equipment (read that as "modulated oscillators") was allowed, and where super-regenerative receivers gave acceptable performance. Everybody and his brother appeared on the low end of two meters, and it was here that one of the factors leading to the forming of the Hampden County Radio Club developed. As hams will, a rag chew net was established, and fellowship became rampant. Visits to each other's shacks, gatherings at various oases, and eyeball QSOs at radio stores, etc., brought old timers and newcomers into contact. A good time was had by all (or almost all).

A second factor was a small group of former CVRC members who got together from time to time to shoot the breeze and quaff a brew or two. It consisted of W1JQ, W1FOF, W1KUE, and occasionally a few others. They could sense a need for a ham club; therefore, in the spring of 1947 a representative group of hams was invited to meet at W1KUE's QTH to discuss possibilities. Among those present, in addition to JQ, FOF, and KUE, were W1s, OBQ, QJV, IOL, NY, JWV, NLE, IC, MNG, KFV, and others whose calls I have forgotten. Agreement was quickly reached that a ham club was needed; however, a few problems were evident. The "three strong men of old" were still active and a factor with which to reckon. It quickly became evident that the current crop of hams would not support a club that spent the majority of its time and efforts haggling over routine club business, and the bugaboo of where to find seed money reared its ugly head.

W1JQ made the first move. He proposed that he, W1UD and W1AVK step aside as possible leaders of any ham club evolving from this meeting. It was the consensus that a type of organization in which a Board of Directors would be responsible for routine club business was the answer to the lack of meeting program time. As for seed money, this would be forthcoming if the "strong man" problem could be solved. In anticipation of such a solution W1NLE and W1KUE were designated to draw up a Constitution and By-Laws for consideration, another group agreed to present W1JQ's proposal to W1UD and W1AVK, and a third would determine a course of action leading to an organizational meeting of all interested hams.

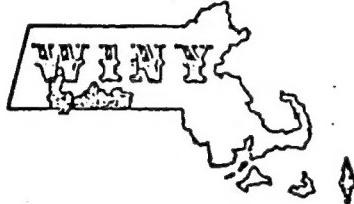
To the surprise of all, or almost all, the "strong man" problem proved the easiest to resolve. W1UD and W1AVK joined W1JQ in the "include me out" declaration. Gil Williams, W1APA, well known in local ham circles but without previous local ham club affiliation, was persuaded to accept the post of Chairman Pro Tempore of an organizational meeting, and spokesman for the sponsoring group. W1KUE was named Secretary Pro Tempore. Those who could afford to do so put up various sums to defray initial expenses, and the work started. By this time the ham population of the area was three hundred to four hundred, and contacting all of them could best be accomplished by mail. Post cards were purchased and mimeographed, a brand new Call Book was sacrificed to the cause and the W1 section ripped from its moorings to be divided among the volunteer post card addressers. Any ham listed in the book as living in an area bounded on the north by Northampton, on the East by Palmer, on the south by Enfield, Connecticut, and on the west by Westfield was sent a meeting notice. The Western Massachusetts Electric Company auditorium on lower State Street was reserved for the meeting. At this point, the early fall of 1947 if memory serves, all one could do was wait and hope.

The fateful evening arrived. More than a hundred hams converged on the WMEO auditorium, and once the "long time no see" eyeball QSOs were quieted down the proposal to form the Hampden County Radio Club was put forth by W1APA. Those of us who remembered pre-war club meetings felt right at home. At times several hams

were addressing the body simultaneously, and one small group left the auditorium in protest over some real or imagined affront. (As I recall most of them straggled back to the hall in time for the final vote.) In the end what happened there is history. The proposed Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, albeit somewhat altered. W1APA was named President by acclamation and W1KUE became Secretary by default. The positions of Vice President, Treasurer, and Directors were filled, but memory does not furnish their names or calls. The fact that the Hampden County Radio Club survives and is active some thirty years after its launching is a tribute to those who recognized the shortcomings of its predecessors, and managed to avoid or minimize those shortcomings in the establishment of the Hampden County Radio Club.

73, Tom W1KUE

CLUB STATION OF THE
HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.



HAVE YOU GOTTHE CLUB QSL CARD YET?
DON'T FORGET THE SASE!!!!

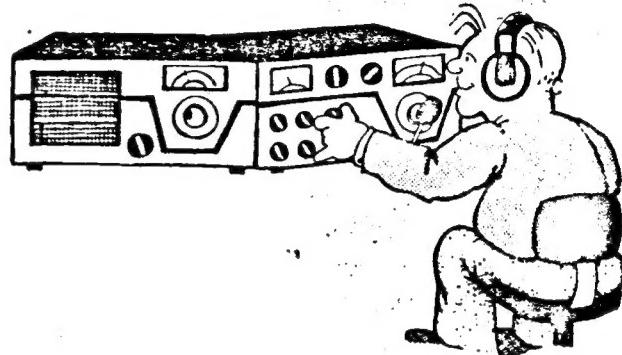
CLUB CALL W1NY

As a result of some diligent efforts by our immediate past prez Ted, WALGZ0, the club was fortunate in being issued W1NY by the FCC in April 1976, with yours truly as an extra trustee. It may be well to recall during this season of festivities and celebrations one of our more active, founding members of the Association who became silent key in his sleep shortly after his retirement from the local gas company. Hank Baier, W1NY, 1902-1971, was first licensed in Chelsea, Ma. circa 1918 as W1KK. As a youngster he worked in the pioneer radio factory that made the famous Murdock Earphones and other vital accessories. From Murdock, Hank progressed to shipboard operator for United Fruit Lines out of Boston during which he acquired that inimitable Banana Boat swing to his cherished CW fist.

In 1926 Hank transferred to the Springfield area to begin his 44 year career as chemist for the gas company, then producing its own gas by converting coal. Hank's chemical duties phased out with the coming of the Tennessee Pipeline natural gas line at about the same time that they were introducing two way radio into his company's trucks. The writer recalls many spirited semi-technical bull-sessions in the little red brick building near the Page Blvd. storage tank that also served as an antenna support. The gas company will probably never know that they contributed substantially to reduction of TVI in our Ham community via Hank and his instruments during those early, strenuous weak signal TV days and open chassis 10 Meter amplifiers.

I am sure that there are a number of us in the club who admired and were inspired by the Mohawk Park Field Days and church hall banquets in Wilbraham and dedicated life long interest Hank had for the Hampden County Radio Association.

In 1967 the club honored Hank with a testimonial and plaque for 50 years of Ham Radio in the public interest.



SPECIAL GIANT TAG SALE!!!

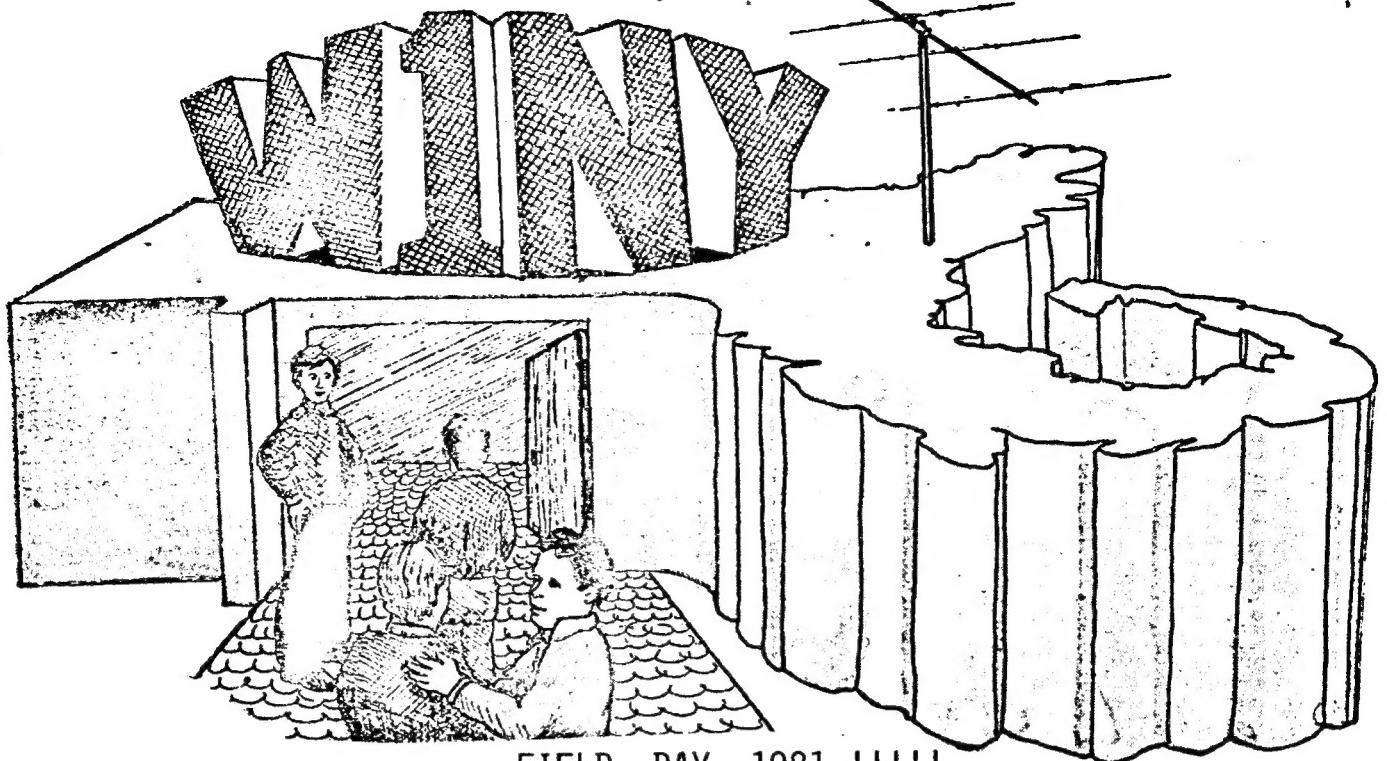
ELECTRONIC ITEMS GALORE!

TOWNSEND COMMUNICATIONS IN
WEST SPRINGFIELD

SATURDAY JUNE 6th

All items priced for quick sale.

NO OTHER INFO AS WE GO
TO PRESS, BUT WE WILL HAVE
MAPS AND INFORMATION
SHEETS AT THE BANQUET.



FIELD DAY 1981 !!!!!

WHERE: MIDDLEFIELD FAIR GROUNDS, MIDDLEFIELD, MASS

WHEN: JUNE 27th, 28th, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY from 12 am to 2 pm

Field Day is an annual exercise in emergency preparedness carried on by hams all over the United States. This year the club is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary as the New England Incoming QSL Bureau! Special QSL cards will be sent to everyone who contacts us. Every club member is invited to participate. We are especially looking for our top cw people to operate. Help is needed with all kinds of equipment, operators, tents, etc. To volunteer contact Paul, WALZKT at 568-8291. To volunteer as a band captain, contact K1BE at 569-6739. If you want to help on a specific band, contact that particular band captain.

BAND CAPTAINS:

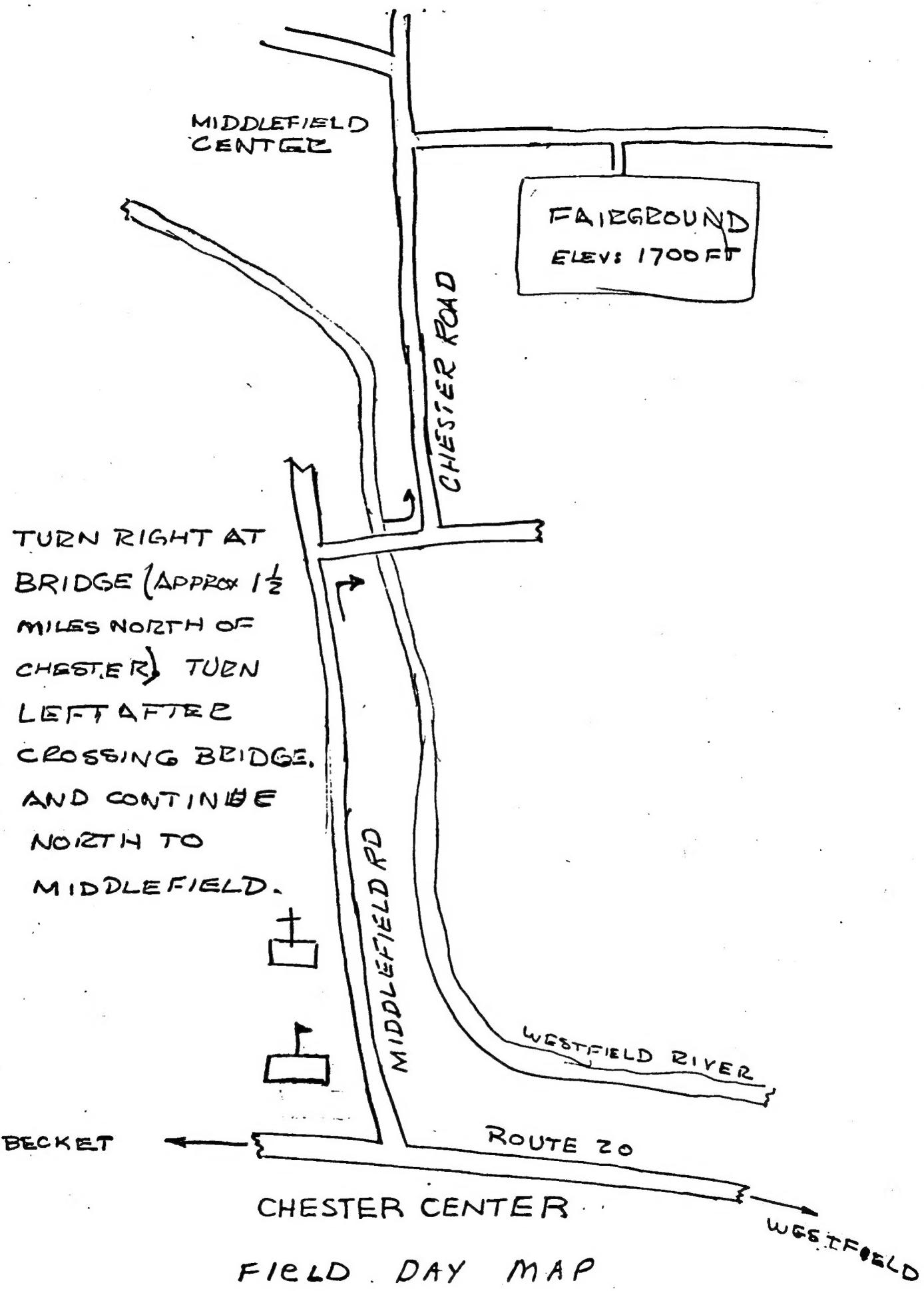
	<u>CW</u>	<u>SSB</u>
80 meters	WLTM	
40	KB1Y	KB1Y
20	K1BE	K1BE
15	WLKK	WLKK

10

OTHER

NOVICE/TECH STATION

WALZKT



TIDBITS

WB1CXC passed Amateur Extra, congrats, Rudy...W1ALL, WB1BPL both keep honey bees. Guess how many can be in one hive? (60,000!)... "Duct Seal" which looks like modeling clay, is great to seal your outdoor coax connectors from the elements and the stuff peals right off...N1AEH is an avid sailor...WA1CQF is designing an antenna tuner that will work on the new WARC bands...WB1CJH has gotten a booth for amateur radio at the Eastern States Exposition this year. FB, Larry...We all know that "CQ" means calling any station. Did you know that "CP" followed by station letters is a call only to those stations with no reply expected. i.e. "CP W1RED, KALCPG down five for traffic..."...Do you want to have a cookout Saturday night at Field Day? Who'll volunteer to organize it???

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Certificate of Merit awarded to Eunice Gordon, W1UKR, in recognition of outstanding service to amateur radio. By her pioneering work and continuing interest in the Hampden County Radio Association's commitment to the First Call Area QSL Bureau; also her dedication and current assignments in the National Traffic System as Net Control Station/ Western Massachusetts Phone Net; and her pre-eminent role in the local emergency preparedness setup via the Mt. Tom repeater.

The above was presented to Eunie by Art Zavarella, W1KK, our esteemed SCM at the special party given for Eunie and Bob on April 10, 1981.

WE DID IT!!!!!!
IT'S OFFICIAL!

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION'S SCORE IN THE JANUARY VHF SS:

→ 213,746 POINTS!!! #2 IN THE COUNTRY!!!! ←

AC1T Top Club Single Op Score WA1RWU #1 Multi-Op in the Country!!!

FOR SALE: FT 101E, 160 - 10 meter HF transceiver by Yaesu. AC or DC, cw filter, fan, factory service manual, all cables, owner's manual, extra tubes, speech processor, \$575.00 Yaesu SP101PB phone patch, speaker, manual, all cables, \$75.00 Both for \$600. Microwave cavity amplifiers, by Resdel Engineering, P30H power amp, P20H power amp, both work on 2075-2325 Mhz; P30C pwr amp, 400-550 Mhz. All gold plated, write to the company for more info, I have a schematic though, \$100, ea or best offer. Dynasco SCA80Q amplifier for 4 channel stereo. Lot of other things on it, no book, works fine \$75.00 Will trade for Kenwood SP-230; VFO 230 or equivalent K1BE Jeff 569-6739 evenings.

Ham Radio, a hobby and a public service.

Scott Darsney, Ham Radio operator WB1CAC, prepares to transmit pictures over the World Wide Amature Television Network.

by Jeff Duquette

Feeding Hills. "Beginning to transmit video, WB1ABL, this is W6VIO." The picture formed on the television screen - Saturn and its rings as seen by Voyager I. Some of the first people to see these pictures in our area were radio amateurs. Using the ham radio television system, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory station, W6VIO, re-transmitted the Saturn and Jupiter pictures. Amateurs around the world tuned in and saw what our distant neighbors look like up close. The photos are scanned and light and dark spots are changed into high or low sounds. A twittery-bird chirp noise over the air waves changes into a television picture at a ham receiver.

Right here in Pioneer Valley is a famous radio club that participates in these events. The Hampden County Radio Association has been investigating and experimenting with radio phenomenon for many years. Originally called the Springfield Radio Club, it began when people like Marconi were first transmitting radio waves. World War II saw most of the members serving in far away places, and when they returned, the club was re-formed as the HCRA. Early experimenters tried to get a signal from Springfield to Hartford - now they bounce signals to the moon and back!

Amateur radio operators are all over the world. The hobby is regulated by air international governing body and the rules are formed by treaties and agreements between countries. Communications between hams around the globe take place 24 hours a day, using different modes of transmission. Voice modes include FM, AM, PM, and single-sideband, each uniquely different. Amateurs use two types of television, one like the one you see at home, and a slow-scan system that enables them to send pictures great dis-

tances. Radioteletype and ASCII are machines talking to machines, after you type out on a keyboard what you want to say. This is put into "machine-talk", rapidly sent, and translated back into what was typed. Facsimile is used to receive satellite weather photos and other information. And almost everyone knows about Morse Code, which is the most efficient way to send any message, under all conditions!

Experiments to improve radio and television are done continually. Did you know amateurs were trying different ways to send television in 1927? Right in our own area amateurs bounce signals off the moon, reflect them off the Aurora Borealis, talk to each other using orbiting satellites carrying amateur radio, and other "exotic" ways. Did you ever see a "picturephone"? Members of Hampden County Radio Association see and talk to each other using a similar system of amateur TV.

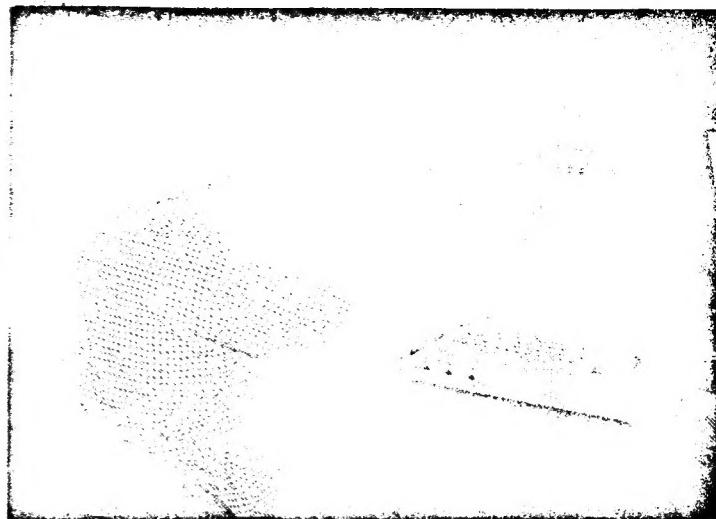
Does amateur radio exist just so local "Tom Swifts" can play electronic wizard? No, it exists because hams play a key role in any disaster. The civilian defense system depends upon their skills. Ham radio operators played an important role during the aftermath of the tornado that struck Windsor Locks. During the recent disasterous Italian earthquake, members of the HCRA were shown on local news programs. Many people had no other way to find out about their relatives in Italy. If a disaster should strike our area, amateurs are ready to help the Red Cross and the Civil Defense.

Did you ever receive a message from someone in the Armed Services? HCRA members are active locally in the MARS program, which ties in the military communications network with amateur radio. Hams also get on four and five times a day to take messages from all over the country on the amateur message network. There is no charge for any of these because amateur radio is a public service.

It would take a book to explain all facets of amateur radio. If you'd like more information, contact the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, Conn. 06111. You're invited to attend the next Hampden County Radio Association meeting. The club meets the first Friday of every month at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church. Meetings start at 8 pm.

End

This appeared in the May issue
of "Southwoods" magazine.



MEETING NOTICES

JUNE 5, 1981
H.C.R.A ANNUAL BANQUET
NCO CLUB WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE
IC 2AT RAFLE
HAM OF THE YEAR AWARD
1980 FIELD DAY SLIDE PRESENTATION

FIELD DAY JUNE 27-28
see field day article
for details

FOR SALE
KENWOOD TS 120 USED 4 TIMES
MOBILE MOUNTING BRACKET
HUSTLER 10-20-40-80 RESONATOR

CALL RON 593-9852

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.
RAY MORIN, KALCRG , EDITOR
97 BROOKHAVEN DR.
EAST LONGMEADOW, MASS. 01028



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